

DECEMBER 2025



December is a busy month—Sunday School class parties, family and friends gathering throughout the month, school programs, church get-togethers, cooking, cleaning, shopping, and then more cooking and cleaning. It's a full season for all of us. In the middle of all the bustle, it's easy to lose sight of the very reason we celebrate Christmas. So how do we keep our focus on Christ while so much is demanded of us?

At *Countdown to Christmas*, Candy Wood Lindley reminded us that preparing our hearts for Christmas begins with remembering our own salvation story. Each of us has a unique testimony of how the Lord brought us into a saving relationship with Him. For some, like Candy, the story began in the middle of deep hardship. For others, the Lord graciously nurtured faith through the steady influence of a strong Christian home where the gospel was faithfully taught. Whatever our story, God has been weaving the tapestry of our lives in such a way that brings Him glory and draws us joyfully into His loving arms. As we enter this Christmas season, may we continually remember that we are celebrating the birth of our Savior—the One who has given us life both physically and spiritually. Whatever we walk through in the days ahead, He is the same faithful Savior who will uphold us and keep us until the day we stand in the presence of the Father forever.

We truly have much to celebrate this Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

Kristie



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Special points of interest

- In Town Retreat
February 6-7

You are invited to the **Women's Ministry In Town Retreat February 6-7, 2026.**

The theme of the event is:

By Design: The Church The Bride of Christ

Save
the
Date

WOMEN'S IN-TOWN RETREAT

FEBRUARY 6-7, 2026

Tickets available online \$45

REGISTER ONLINE AT BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN

Scripture uses many rich metaphors to help us understand what the church is and who we are together. Ephesians 1:23 uses the metaphor of the church as the body reminding us of our need for each other; John 15:1-5 uses the metaphor of the vine and branches reminding us of our dependence on Him; and John 10:1-15 uses the beautiful metaphor of the flock of sheep reminding us we are united under one shepherd. Ephesians 2:19 and 2 Corinthians 6:18 remind us that the church is a family that we have been adopted into by God our Father. We are not just “church friends” but we are actually in covenant relationship with one another forever!

The metaphor we will look at this retreat weekend is that of the Bride of Christ and it is specifically mentioned in Ephesians 5:22-23, 2 Corinthians 11:2 and Revelation 21:2, 9. As we unpack what it means that we, the church, are the Bride of Christ, my prayer is that it will grow us in our love of the Bridegroom and that it will enhance our understanding of the church.

Registration will open on December 17th <https://briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/in-town-retreat-2/>

The cost is \$45 and includes material, snacks and lunch on Saturday.

Nursery is available on Friday evening with nursery registration. Saturday the Gym will be open for Fathers and children.

Schedule

Friday night, February 6

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Bridal Expo

Location: Fellowship Hall

Fun, Dessert, Giveaways

Introduction Session

10:00 – 11:00 am

Breakout Sessions

Various Locations

11:15 – 12:15 pm

The Ceremony

Location: Worship Center

Worship and Large Session

Speaker: Amanda Leon

Saturday, February 6

8:30 – 9:45 am

The Rehearsal

Location: Worship Center

Fun, Giveaways, & Worship

Session

Worship Leader: Caroline Royal

12:30 – 1:45 pm

Lunch & Final Challenge

Location: Fellowship Hall

Women's Spring Bible Studies

Begin the week of January 5th

Monday

Genesis

10:00am with Michele Cantley—A202

Tuesday

Thinking Biblically, Living Covenantally

9:30am with MaryAnne Turnbull—G101
(Kristie Harrick & Amanda Leon teaching)

“Meet the Ladies”

9:30am with Cindy Reeder—FHA

Thursday

Sermon on the Mount

9:30am with Donna Evans—G101

Hebrews

9:30am with Yvonne Welch—G103

REGISTER NOW: T&CW26

**turn
your
eyes**

**SEEING THE SAVIOR
IN THE PSALMS**

June 11 - 13, 2026 • Indianapolis, Indiana

**The Gospel Coalition Women's Conference
(TGCW26)**

June 11-13 | Indianapolis, Indiana

Registration is open. [Register here.](#)

L.O.V.E. MINISTRY



The LOVE Ministry is an outreach to Briarwood members who are no longer able to attend regular services at the church due to mobility or health-related issues.

Would you consider serving with our LOVE Ministry?

The LOVE Ministry has two teams. One team arrives early on Monday morning to prepare small vases of flowers into arrangements using the flowers from the Sunday Flower arrangements that were located in the Worship Center and the foyer.

The second team (where we need volunteers) then meets on Monday at the flower room to pick up vases of flowers to deliver to Briarwood members in senior living homes, nursing homes and assisted living homes. We have over 60 members we can visit each week if we have the volunteers.

The goal is to bring light into the lives of Briarwood members and others who are unable to actively participate in the weekly activities of the church. We want to remind them they are still apart of our covenant family and we care for them.

We would love for you to join us in this beautiful outreach. It is a wonderful activity for spouses to do together, small groups, moms with little ones, or even on your own.

For more information, contact or darby@turningheartsmministries.com.

Exciting News from Our Women's Ministry!



Women's Ministry Leadership Training

MARCH 5-7, 2026

ATLANTA, GA

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Vanessa Hawkins

Paula Miles

Kristie Harrick

MUSIC: Lori Sealy

Clay-Like Calling

God's Glory in our Weakness



women.pcacdm.org/lt-2026

We're thrilled to share that **our very own Kristie Harrick** will be teaching at **CDM's Women's Ministry Leadership Training!**

This annual training is designed for women who **encourage and equip other women in the Church**—whether you're leading a Bible study, serving in your local or presbytery women's ministry, or extending care to women in your congregation. The **Women's Ministry Leadership Training** exists to come alongside you—helping women grow in their faith, leadership, and ability to serve others with grace and wisdom.

Join us in celebrating Kristie as she uses her gifts to bless and equip women across our denomination!

Register [HERE!](https://women.pcacdm.org/lt-2026)



Want to reach the nations but not quite ready to pack your bags for a mission trip? God is bringing the nations to us! Did you know there are adult learners from 19 different countries coming to Briarwood each week for our ESL classes? We need volunteers to

help us reach them by serving on our hospitality team, teacher team, and transportation team.

We offer ESL classes Tuesday mornings from 10-11:45am and Wednesday nights during Mid-week from 6:30-8pm. Come be a part of this exciting outreach by volunteering with us! You can impact the nations with the gospel of Jesus Christ right here in Birmingham!

Do you enjoy preparing food and using your hospitality gifts? We need 8 ladies to join the Hospitality Team by bringing snacks once a month: either for our Tuesday morning or our Wednesday evening classes.

Do you enjoy meeting new people and building relationships? Our Teacher Team needs additional volunteers to serve weekly as Teacher Helpers in our classes. We have openings for 2 Tuesday morning and 3 Wednesday evening helpers. No preparation needed – just a heart to serve!

Perhaps you enjoy driving around town and would like to provide transportation for students to/from class (as needed). Our Transportation Team would be grateful for your help!

[Click here to volunteer.](#) If you have any questions, please contact our ESL/Friendship Partner Director, Courtney McGregor cmcgregor@briarwood.org.







BRIARWOOD WOMEN'S MINISTRY PRESENTS

COUNTDOWN TO *Christmas*

Thank you to all of our event volunteers!

Cindy Ball
Debbie Bellamy
Lisa Bunn
Karen Carlisle
Elaine Cox
Leslie Cushman
Ashley Draper
Rebecca Galbreath
Susan Greenall
Linda Grinnell
Denise Hamilton
Maragret Hess
Elizabeth McRae
Kate Noel
Meredith Peters
Janice Peterson
Cindy Reeder
Jan Ricketts
Mary Claire Warlick
Melody Weaver
Joy Weaver

Women's Leadership Team:

Shannon Black
Lisa Bunn
Vanessa Cain
Ashley Draper
Marie Gathings
Rhonda Parsons
Meredith Peters
Heather Purser

Special Entertainment:

Tammy Moore
Anna Joy Powell

Graphics:

Rebecca Galbreath

AV Team:

Jesse Reagan
Frank Barker III
Connor Loyd

Kitchen and food service:

Sherri Blahnik
Margaret Kim

Facilities and Maintenance Crew

Nurse:

Angie Neugent and team

Bookstore Team:

Debbie Little and team




Thank you to those who provided table centerpieces, Christmas trees, and other decorations:



Debbie Bellamy
Shannon Black
Lisa Bunn
Jody Bursley
Mary Beth Bush
Vanessa Cain
Susan Cizek
Julie Clark
Elaine Cox
Elizabeth Frost
Rebecca Golden
Lyndsey Holcombe
Danae Lloyd
Jenny Marlow
Lindsey McGehee
Mary Myers
Meredith Peters
Lucy Thuo
Jerri Lynn Turner
Melody Weaver



BRIARWOOD



NURSERY

MINISTRY

Welcome Desk Mentor Mom's Needed!

Thank you to all of the Mentor Moms (seasoned moms, you know who you are) that have served at the Nursery Welcome Desk this year! We are so thankful to the Lord for your willingness to welcome guests, greet members, and encourage young moms. Your warm presence and kind smile make a lasting impact and are vital to the heart of the nursery ministry. If you would like to serve as a Mentor Mom at the Nursery Welcome Desk in 2026, please sign up [here](#). If you have questions, please reach out to nurseryadmin@briarwood.org.

Christmas at Briarwood



“Your Light Has Come”

Celebrate the Advent season with the Briarwood Ballet as they lead us in worship with their presentation on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Admission is free.

December 7 | 6:00-8:00

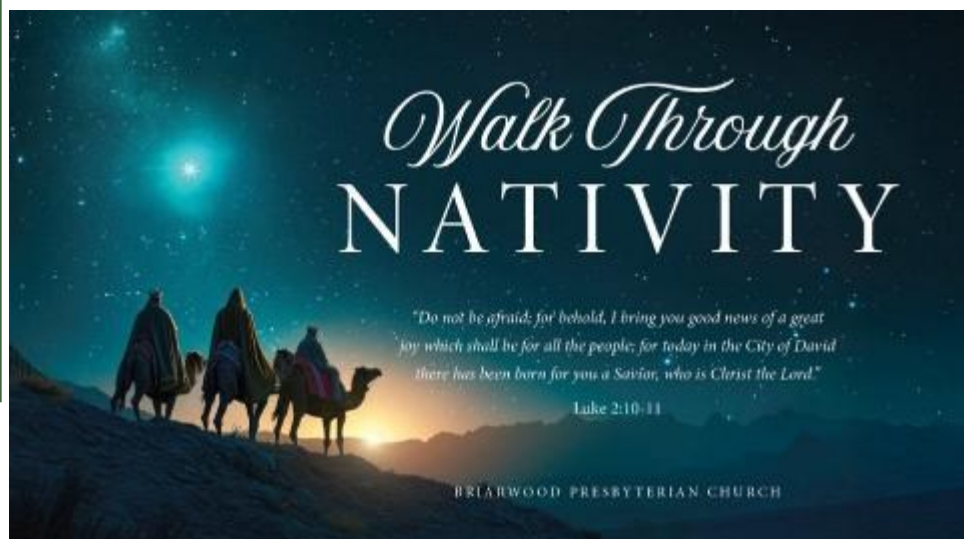
Hundreds of volunteers are needed!

To sign up to volunteer for this year's Walk Thru Nativity click here:

[Walk Through Nativity - Briarwood Presbyterian Church, PCA](#)

Walk Through Nativity December 10-12 • 6:45-8:45

Each Advent season Briarwood presents a gift to our community with the Walk Through Nativity. Hundreds of Briarwood members come together to depict the birth and life of our Lord in 13 biblical scenes with narrated drama using live actors and animals (including a camel!)



Christmas at Briarwood

A BRIARWOOD CHRISTMAS

Your LIGHT HAS COME

BRIARWOOD CHOIRS, ORCHESTRA AND BALLET *featuring Sandra McCracken*
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025 • 6:00 P.M.

“Your Light Has Come”

Come experience Advent through musical and artistic presentations from the Briarwood Sanctuary Choir, the Orchestra, and Ballet featuring special guest, Sandra McCracken.

December 21 | 6:00-7:30

Christmas Eve Services

Family Candlelight Service

December 24

5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Service

11:00 p.m.

YOU'RE INVITED

Candlelight Service



Community Updates



Lydia Luncheon



Psalm 119 | Fall Bible Study Donna Evans



Briarwood Women's Care Team

The Briarwood Women's Care Team's primary focus is to serve as advocates for women experiencing significant needs and/or in crisis, and to come alongside the staff and leadership as they minister to women in the congregation in difficult circumstances.

To find out more information, or to request help, visit:

briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/womens-care-team/

